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Title: Need to expedite the pending road-projects in Tripura.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA-WEST): Sir, I would like to raise an important matter highlighting the importance of road connectivity in Tripura.

The development of the State of Tripura is handicapped because of its geographical location and poor transport infrastructure. To improve the connectivity to the State, hon. Prime Minister during his visit to the State in October, 2005 had announced 4-laning of NH-44, the only Highway connecting the State with the rest of the country. Till now no work has started on the ground.

Development work of a new Highway NH-44A was started in 1999 but till date the progress has been dismal. As an alternate link to the State, the State Government has been demanding for development of the road from Kokital, Assam border, to Subroom, Tripura. Widening and improvement of this road will benefit predominantly tribal habitations and thereby improve the socio-economic condition of vast areas of the State.

I would, therefore, urge the Central Government to take up immediately the long pending project and expedite the work so that the State may become part of the national mainstream.